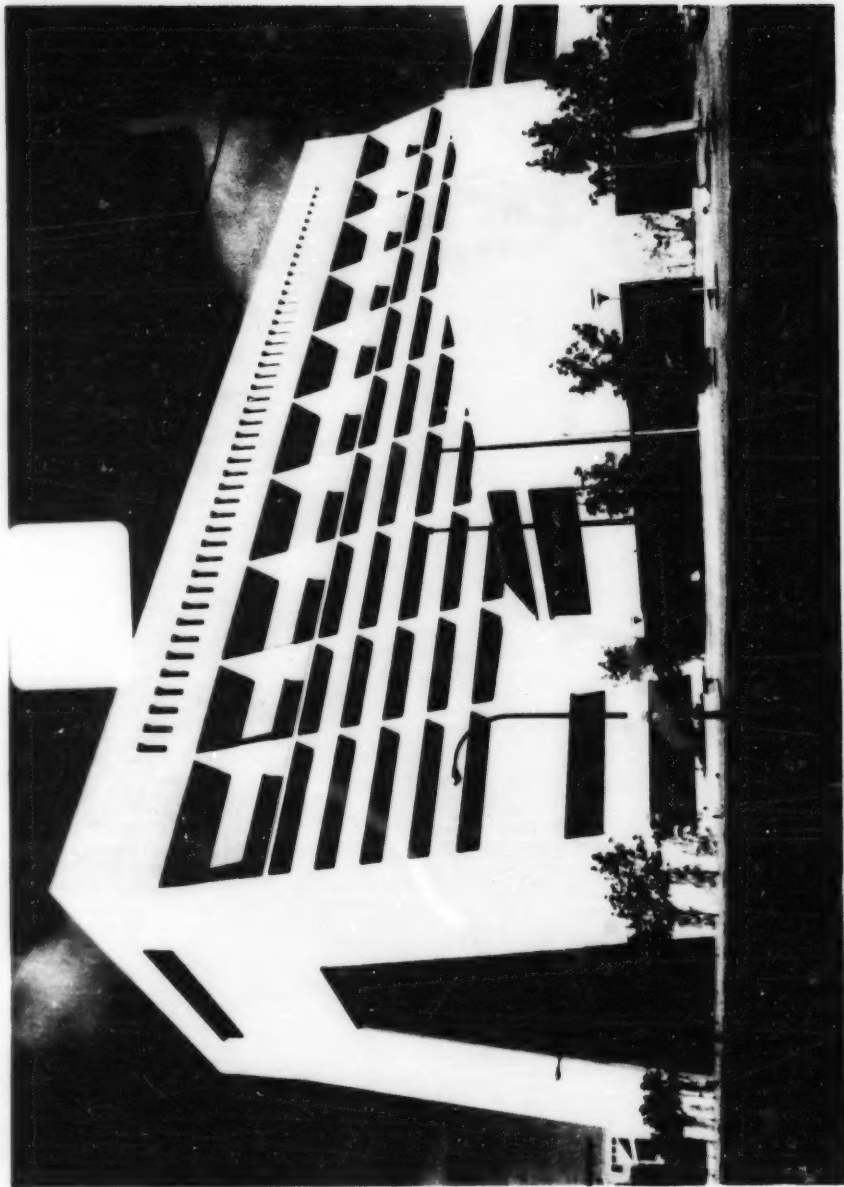




Sturdy-Stone Artwork

Saskatchewan



Sturdy-Stone Centre
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan



John H. Sturdy



Arthur T. Stone

Foreword

The construction of the Sturdy-Stone Centre allowed the Government of Saskatchewan to more effectively and conveniently serve the people of Saskatoon and district by consolidating various departments and agencies. A retail mall featuring shops, restaurants and an automobile parkade demonstrate that this was intended to be more than an ordinary government office building.

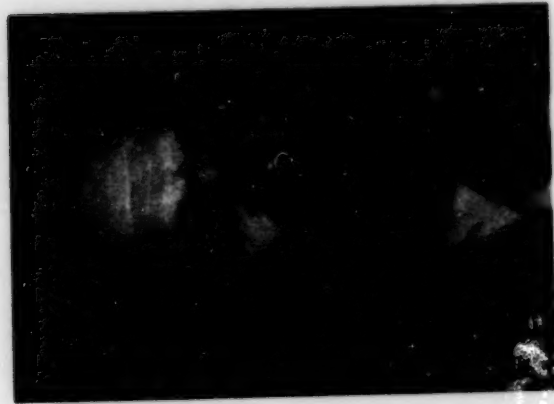
The Sturdy-Stone Centre was designed to be a part of the Saskatoon scene for a long time to come. The naming of this building after John Sturdy and Arthur Stone will ensure that future generations of Saskatonians, as well as other citizens of Saskatchewan, will be reminded of the pioneering contributions of these two men.

John Sturdy was M.L.A. for Saskatoon from 1944 until his retirement from public life in 1960. During his tenure of office he served in a variety of capacities — Minister of Reconstruction and Rehabilitation, Minister of Social Welfare and Minister without Portfolio. As Minister without Portfolio Mr. Sturdy served as an assistant to the Premier.

Although John Sturdy's long time running mate Arthur Stone, never served in a ministerial capacity during his twenty years in office he played a notable part in the creation of some of the best labour legislation in Canada.

It is fitting that this complex, designed to serve the people of Saskatoon and district is named in honour of two legislators who dedicated their lives to the service of the City of Saskatoon and the Province of Saskatchewan ... John Sturdy and Art Stone.





John H. Sturdy and Arthur T. Stone represented the City of Saskatoon as M.L.A.'s for a collective total of thirty-six years. This provincial building was named after them in recognition of their long and dedicated service to the people of Saskatoon and Saskatchewan.

The Sturdy-Stone Centre brings together public servants who were previously scattered throughout the community. In these new surroundings, they will be more easily accessible to the public.

A further important function of the Sturdy-Stone Centre is to provide an attractive and accessible setting for the work of Saskatchewan artists. All of the artwork in the building is by resident Saskatchewan artists, and each work complements the striking design of the Centre.

This brochure provides an introduction to the contributing artists and their work found in the Sturdy-Stone Centre. The people of this province can be proud of its artists, and it is my hope that this building will help further the recognition they justly deserve.

On behalf of the Government of Saskatchewan I congratulate the artists who have their work displayed in the Sturdy-Stone Centre.

Honourable Allan Blakeney
Premier of Saskatchewan



While the Department of Government Services has proudly displayed the work of Saskatchewan painters throughout many of our buildings we have had limited opportunities to incorporate artwork into the physical structure of buildings.

We, therefore, somewhat nervously awaited public reaction to the artwork incorporated in the Sturdy-Stone Centre. Comments have been very favourable. I find this unanimity of opinion to be somewhat surprising when one considers how subjectively each person reacts to art.

I would like to congratulate all of the artists who participated in the Sturdy-Stone project. Their efforts have produced a worthy addition to this building.

I would also like to acknowledge the foresight and dedication of my predecessor as Minister of Government Services — the Honourable Gordon T. Snyder. His continued and unequivocal support for the provision of Saskatchewan artwork in Department of Government Services facilities make this project possible.

The success of this experiment has laid the foundation for the further incorporation of Saskatchewan artists work in government buildings. Given the continued co-operation of the Saskatchewan art community I am sure projects of this sort will endure.

Honourable Reg Gross
Minister of Government Services

The provision of artwork in the Sturdy-Stone Centre has been a requirement of the project from its inception. This was reflected in the earliest guidelines presented to us by the Department of Government Services. The form the artwork was to take was left open for discussion and resolution during the design process.

One of the original considerations for this building was a more open treatment of the east and west end walls exposing the parking levels. However as design proceeded and discussions among members of our firm and Government Services took place a more decorative treatment of the end walls was a more attractive and interesting possibility.

After many discussions and presentations to those involved in the project, the present proposal evolved. It then remained to select artists for the work on the exterior and by this stage a continuation of clay sculpture and murals into the interior.

As described elsewhere a limited competition among local artists was developed and artists were selected on the basis of the work submitted.

We have been tremendously impressed with the talent and the ability to organize and produce massive works demonstrated by our Saskatchewan artists. It was part of a new and exciting experience for us. The works have beyond a doubt contributed to the success of the building.

P. M. Scott, F.R.A.I.C.
Forrester Scott Bowers Walls
Architects and Engineers

Artwork Commissions

While a number of possibilities were considered, it was felt that every effort to use Saskatchewan artists should be made before commissions were given to out-of-province artists.

The establishment of a list of artists who would be asked to submit sketches was taken on by Jim Ellemers of the Saskatchewan Arts Board. Mr. Ellemers presented the Department of Government Services with a list of fifteen artists.

Submissions were screened by representatives of the Saskatchewan Arts Board, the architect and the Department of Government Services. The suitability of submissions was assessed based on the concept of each proposal, the quality of the submissions and the suitability of the design in relation to the building.

Commissions for artwork were awarded to: Bob Billyard, Vic Cicansky, Lorraine Malach, Jack Sures, Randy Woolsey and Greg Hardy.

The next few pages provide an opportunity to introduce yourself to the artwork which has been incorporated into the Sturdy-Stone Centre as well as the people responsible for its creation.



Jack Sures

Located on the west wall of the Sturdy-Stone Centre in Saskatoon is an innovative mural designed and created by Saskatchewan artist Jack Sures. Sures, an internationally known "artist in clay", created the mural in his Regina studio.

Sures' mural is a low relief circular motif made up of alternating bands radiating out from the centre of the circle. The mural is the artist's expression of a flower and is designed to complement the exterior architecture.

The rays of the setting sun highlight the detailed design of Mr. Sures' mural, producing an interesting variety of colour and shadow patterns.

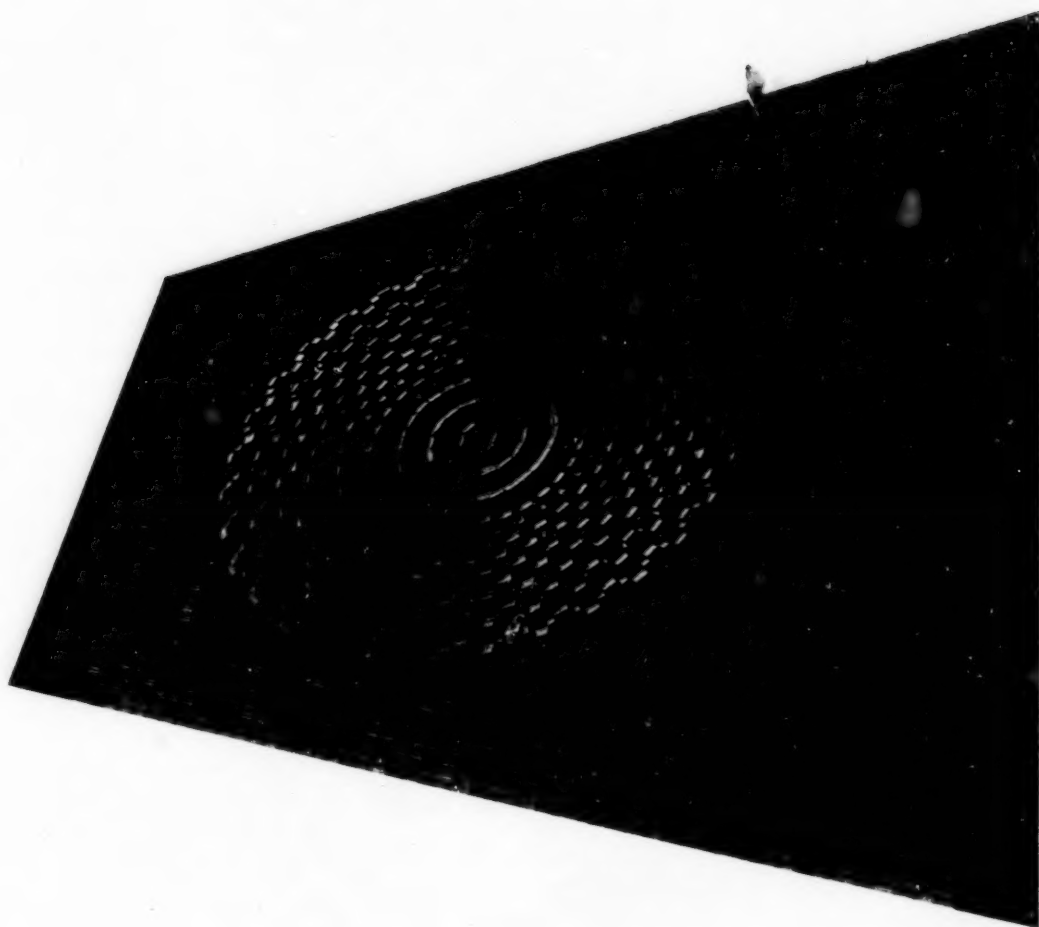
Five ceramics students under the direction of Sures laboured on the mural for thirteen months. The mural is composed of 4,200 clay pieces and covers some 2,900 square feet.

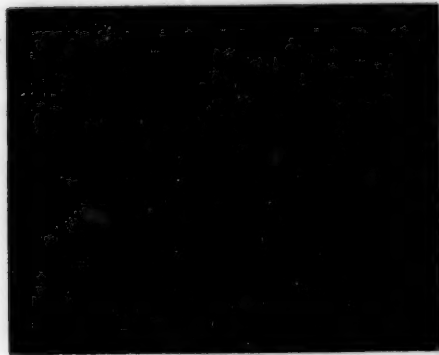
Clay for the mural was purchased from the Plainsman Clay Company in Medicine Hat, Alberta, and is characterized by its high iron content. As a result of the reduction firing process done in a gas kiln the tiles exhibit variations in colour. These differences are caused by controlling the exposure of oxygen to the tiles during the firing process and by the placement of the tiles within the kiln.

Jack Sures has participated in numerous exhibitions and lectures around the world. He has exhibited work in Germany, Italy, England, Switzerland and France. In Canada, Sures has had displays with the Canada Council Art Board. He has completed murals for the Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery, the Canadian Guild of Potters in Toronto, the University of Regina, and the University of Saskatchewan Veterinary College.

Recently Sures has had one man shows at the Norman Mackenzie Art Gallery in Regina, the Thomas Gallery in Winnipeg, the Ontario Guild of Potters in Toronto, and the Canadian Guild of Crafts in Montreal.

Sures has been the recipient of various honours and awards in Canada and abroad, including the Medal d'Honneur at the Geneva International Ceramics Exhibition in 1966.





Lorraine Malach

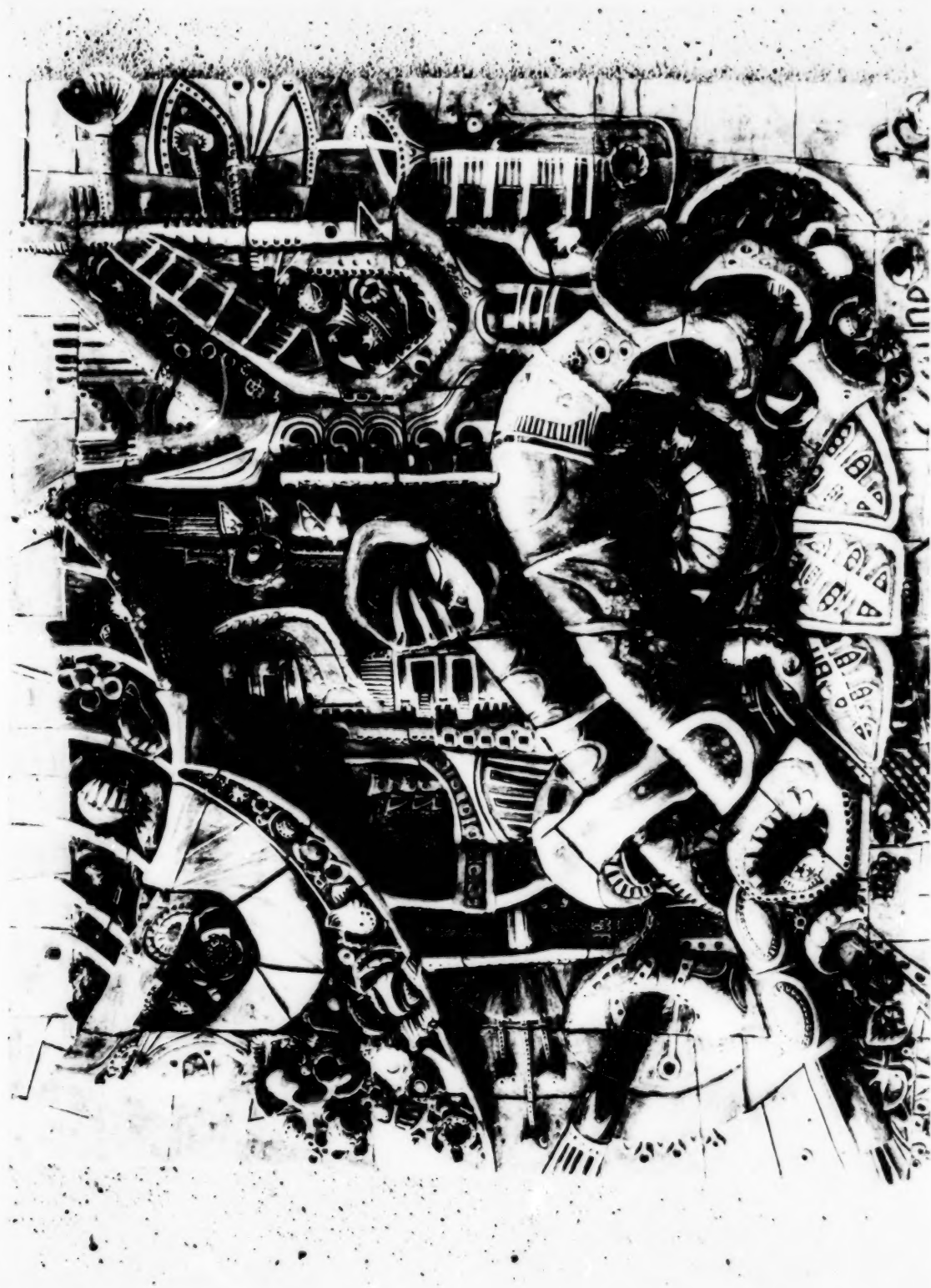
The ceramic mural installed on the main floor of the Sturdy-Stone Centre is by Regina artist Lorraine Malach. The work measuring ten feet by ten feet, and weighing almost a metric ton, is one of five commissions prepared by Saskatchewan artists for the provincial government building.

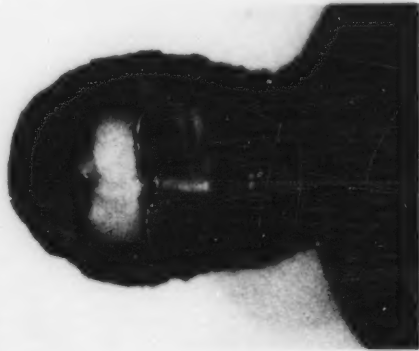
The work could represent growing forms. Many of the shapes form and expand into other designs and shapes reminiscent of flowers and leaves, giant petals, mushrooms, stems, buds and the occasional bloom. Though many of the designs are different, others are repeated throughout the work. The three dimensional images evoke a tactile quality which invites one to touch and feel the various textures and shapes. The glazing and rich colours which run through the mural are suggestive of "Renaissance Majolica".

Ms. Malach worked with the mural in her combination studio and home and completed the work in seven months. The clay was laid out on two tables, worked, formed and carved into the desired designs. The final designs were then cut into sections before being bisqued, glazed and glaze-fired in the Connaught Library in Regina.

Many of Ms. Malach's major works are well known in Regina. She has completed commissions for the Wesley United Church, the Catholic Information Centre, Jubilee Auditorium, the Plains Hospital and the Connaught Library. Other works are located in the Franciscan Chapel in Edmonton, St. Michael's Retreat House in Lumsden, Mount St. Francis Retreat House in Cochrane, Alberta, the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Fort Qu'Appelle, and Sacred Heart Church in Regina.

A native of Saskatchewan, Lorraine Malach attended the Regina School of Art for two years. She completed four years of additional studies at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and has attended the prestigious Barnes Foundation in Merion, Pennsylvania.





Bob Billyard

Located above the elevator doors on the second floor of The Sturdy-Stone Centre in Saskatoon is a collection of ceramic murals designed and created by Saskatoon ceramist Bob Billyard. The collection was created in Billyard's studio, The Salt and Stone Company, and is one of five commissions prepared by Saskatchewan artists.

Billyard has designed his panels to depict, in relief sculpture, nature scenes of Saskatchewan. Five themes inherent in the ceramic murals are those of prairie, forest, fish, flowers and birds. A ceramic disc is the central motif to each of the five panels and the subject theme is depicted in a stylized representational manner on the disc.

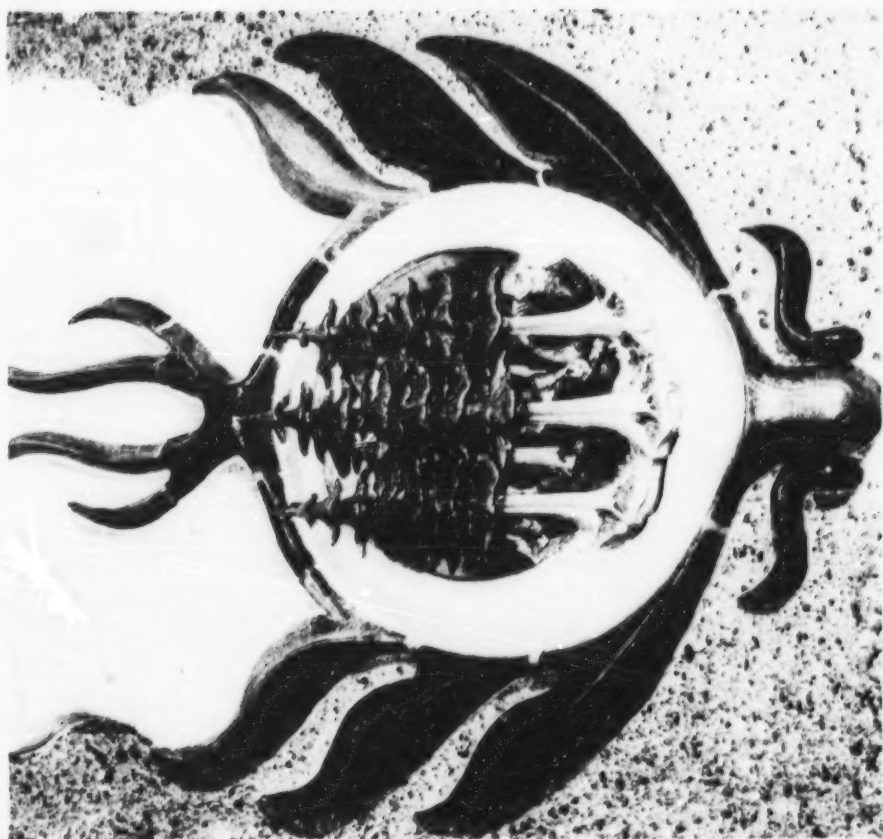
The ceramic discs were press moulded and then the relief sculpture was modelled on this surface.

The tiles making up the surrounding panels were placed around the disc on the easel and the panel was dried as a unit. The panels were then number coded, bisque fired, glazed and glaze-fired. The panels were constructed in Billyard's studio and transported to the building site where they were bonded to the wall.

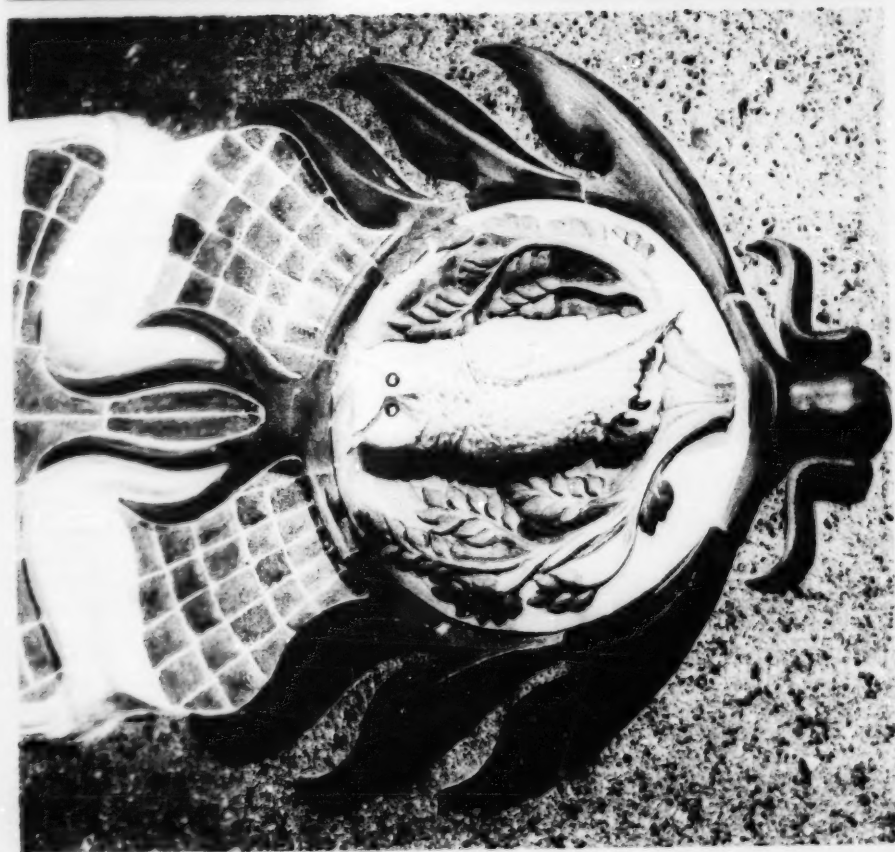
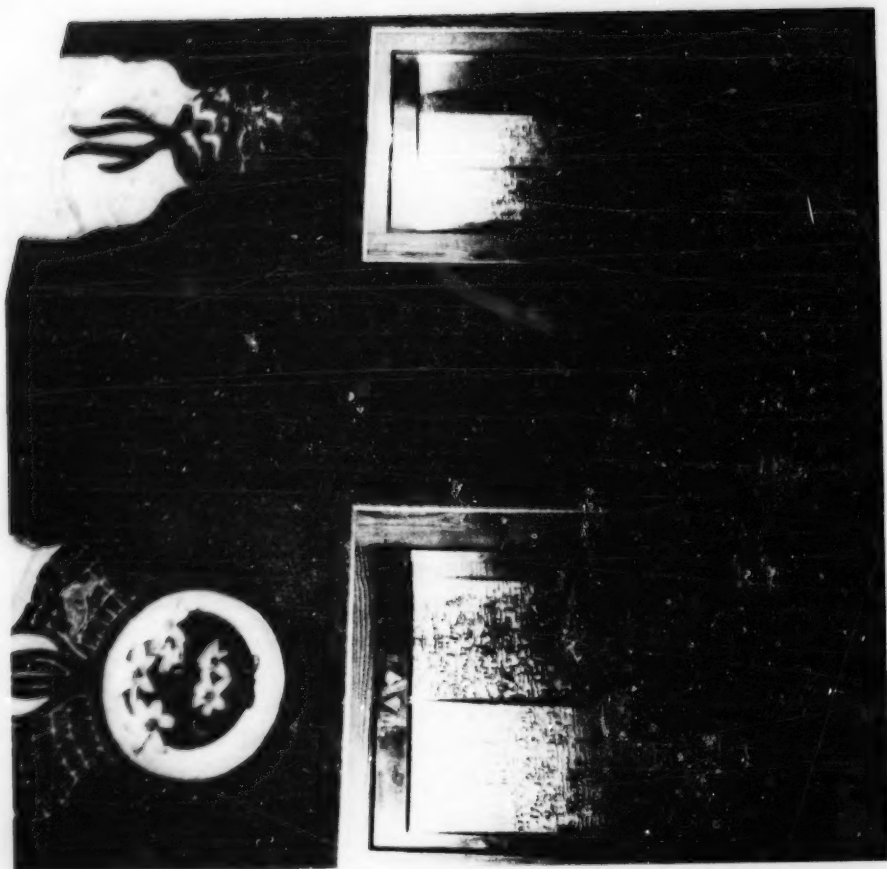
Many of Billyard's works are well known across Canada, in both public and private collections.

Billyard attended elementary and high school in Saskatoon. He attended the University of Manitoba and studied under Charlie Scott. Mr. Billyard graduated in 1967 with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. He attended Claremont Graduate School in California in 1968-69 and studied under Henry Takamoto.

In speaking of his studio Billyard says, "Operating my studio on a full time basis has been very satisfying. It allows me a steady production of functional and sculptural ceramics and the satisfaction of total involvement with clay. An additional activity at the studio is teaching. At any given time I have two or three students. The studio gives them an independent atmosphere in which to develop their work. Teaching takes the form of informal discussions and critiques."









Victor Cicansky

The artwork installed above the elevator shafts in the lobby of The Sturdy-Stone Centre in Saskatoon consists of five murals. The murals, created by Craven artist Vic Cicansky, deal with the role of ordinary people in the community.

When describing the scenes he chose to represent, he says, "What we now call Saskatchewan was a place that existed in the imagination of the people who came here from Europe. It was a place where you could get land and work. That's why they came."

"For most of us today, those early days of settlement exist only in the imagination. The shape of that world, as represented here in red-fired, unglazed clay, is presented as a vision of the simplicity, the humour, the beauty, and the vitality of the early immigrants and their work."

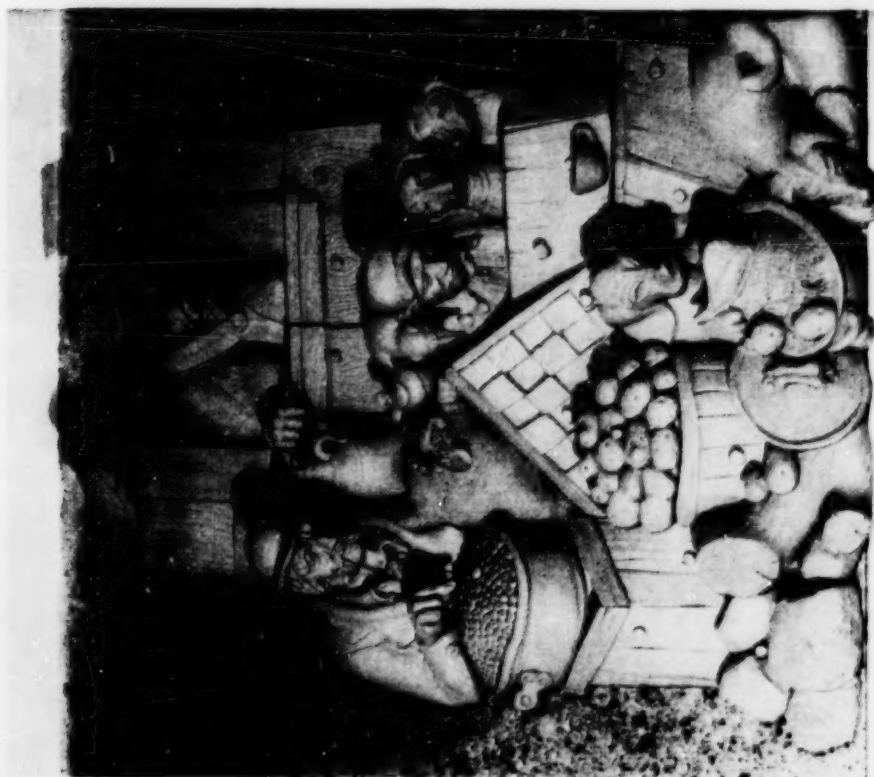
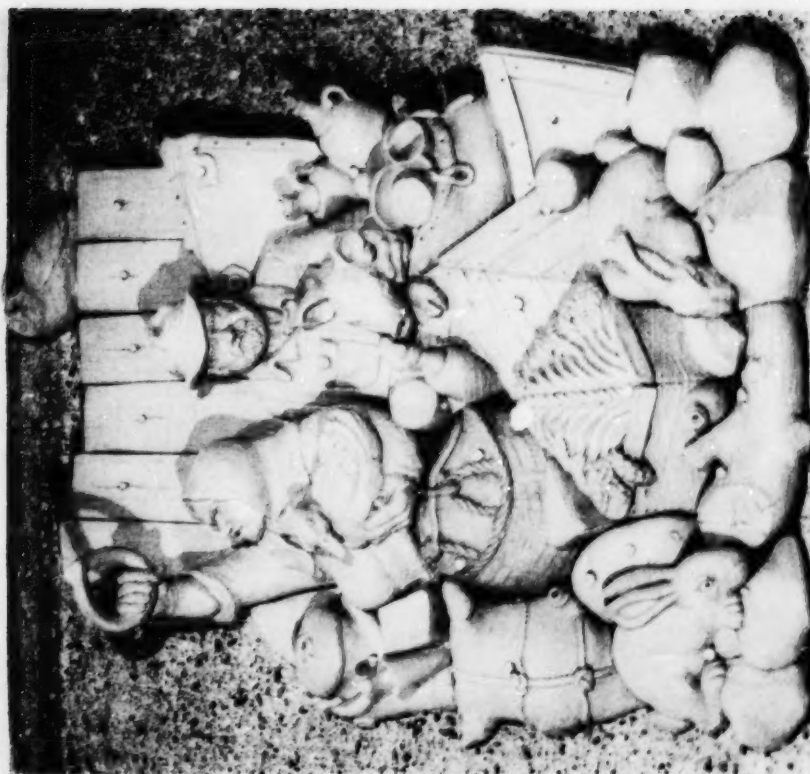
The finished display is of earthy, fired and stained clay appropriate to the subject matter. The clay, of reddish hues, was obtained from Medicine Hat, Alberta and is characterized by its high iron content.

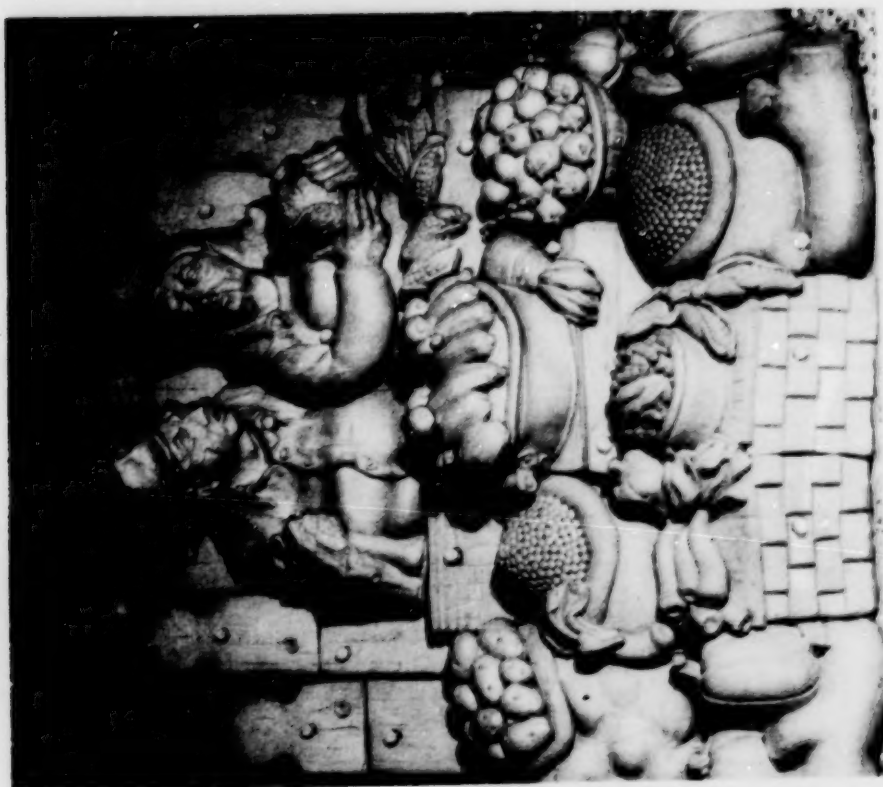
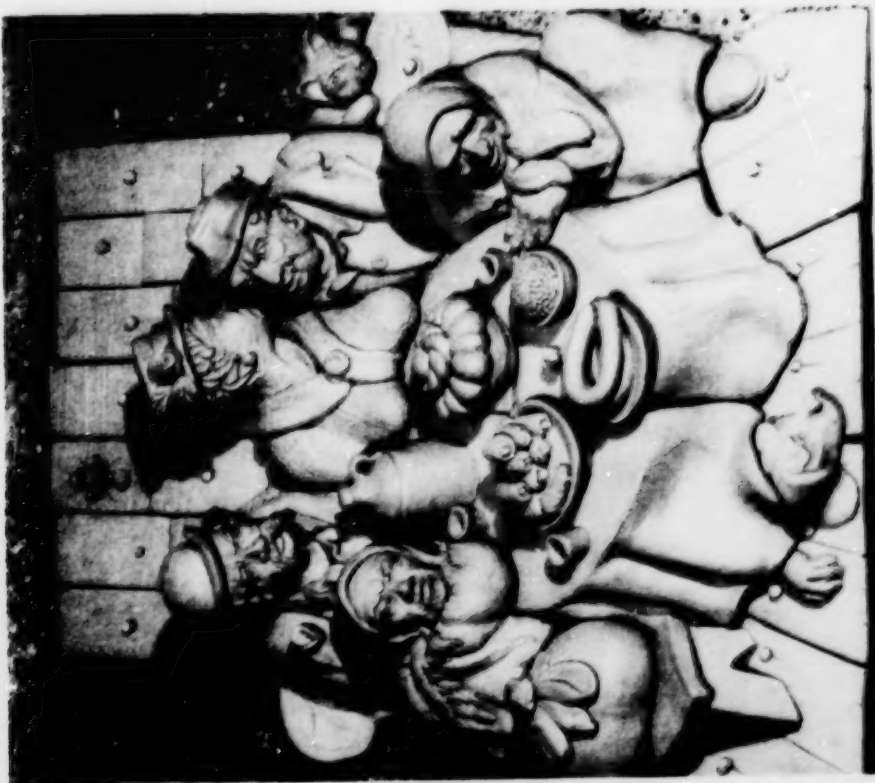
There are five murals, each approximately 4' x 6' in size. Each panel is made up of individually built sections that fit together in a jig saw puzzle overlapping fashion. The building technique is slab to achieve the final appearance.

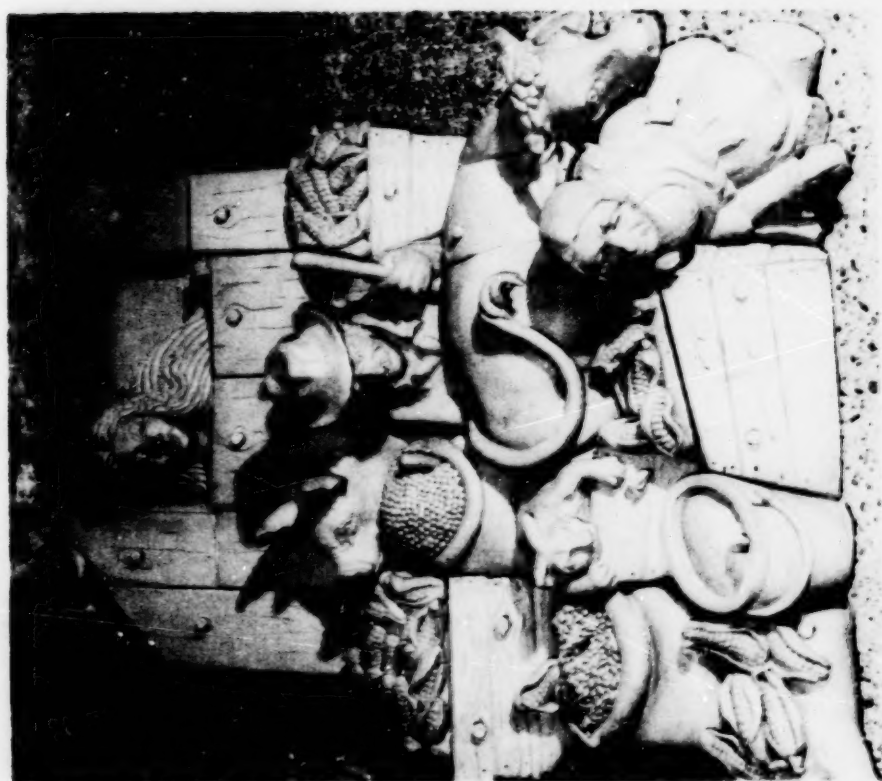
Vic Cicansky was born and raised in Regina's east end, and keeps in touch with his early experiences in this area through his art forms. He has retained through his sculptures the essence and details of his childhood neighbourhood. He obtained his Bachelor of Education at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon and proceeded to a Bachelor of Arts at that same University on the Regina Campus.

Cicansky has had teaching experience with the Regina Board of Education (1960-66, 1967-68); University of California (1968-70); University of Saskatchewan, Regina (1970-72) (1974); Banff School of Fine Arts (1972); Nova Scotia College of Art and Design (1973); and the University of Regina (1977).

Cicansky has had numerous shows of his own since 1971, and contributes to various lectures and workshops. He has been the recipient of various honours and awards. Cicansky's sculptures are represented in the following public collections: Saskatchewan Arts Board; Charlottetown Museum of Fine Arts; Department of External Affairs in Ottawa; Sacramento State College in Sacramento, California; Museum of Modern Art, Tokyo, Japan; University of Saskatchewan; University of Regina; Canada Council Art Bank; Museum of Fine Arts, Montreal and the Musee d'Art Contemporain, Montreal.

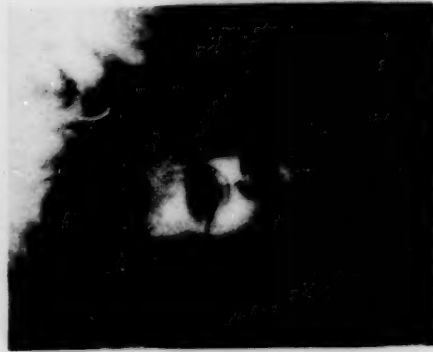








Randy Woolsey



Greg Hardy

The artwork commissioned for the east exterior wall of the Sturdy-Stone Centre in Saskatoon is a large abstract mural of some 4,000 square feet.

The work, the result of efforts by Saskatchewan artists Randy Woolsey of Cupar and Greg Hardy of Meacham, is composed of approximately 5,000 individual tiles which vary in depth anywhere from one inch to three inches depending upon the relief of the mural. Each tile weighs approximately eight pounds and measures nine inches by twelve inches.

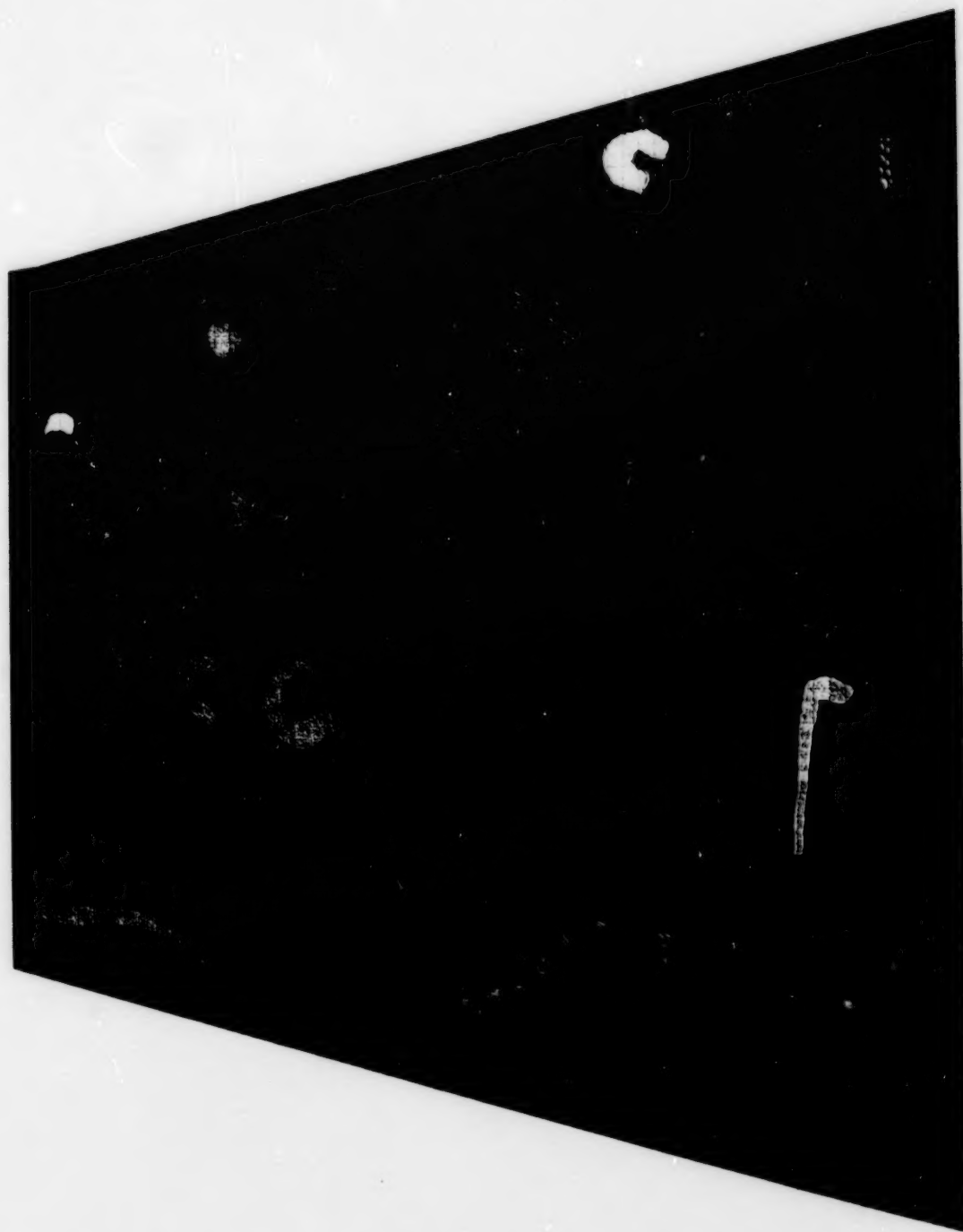
Although the work is basically an abstracted landscape that uses colour and texture to create its effect it does have some recognizable elements such as birds, plants, sky and land forms.

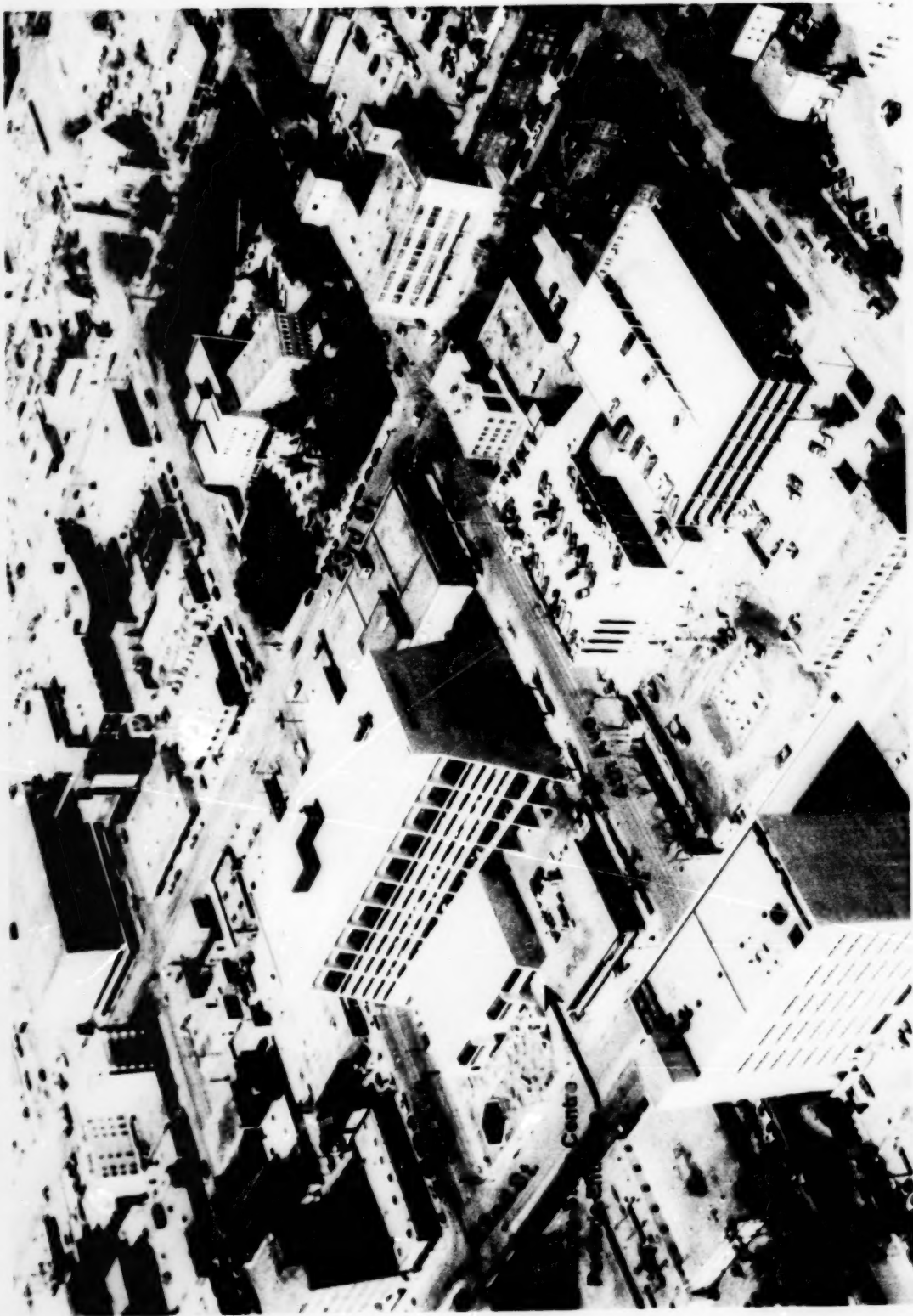
The mural is intended to act upon the viewer from several levels. As background it has three large coloured shapes in blue, buff and grey vitreous slips on rich brown. A unifying texture was then laid across the mural in such a way so as to catch the sun from the east and the south. Over this, compositions of coloured glazed forms were placed. All together some twenty different colours or shades were used. Assisted by three helpers Woolsey and Hardy sprinkled the surface with silica sand to keep the clay from sticking. Thirty-two tons of clay were then prepared in a clay mixer. Five square foot slabs one inch thick were rolled out by a machine. The slabs were carried to the work surface and overlapped. The slabs were then walked on to firmly form a single sheet of clay.

Using a specially designed cutter the whole piece was cut into tiles of uniform size. The tiles were allowed to dry very slowly to prevent warpage.

The tile had to be fired over a period of five months in a large gas fired kiln, made especially for the commission.

Both Randy Woolsey and Greg Hardy were born and raised in Saskatchewan. Woolsey grew up in Outlook, Penzance and Cupar. He travelled widely before settling in Japan in 1966. For three years he studied pottery making and operated his own studio for six years. In 1975 he returned to Canada and established a studio at Cupar. Woolsey has had many one-man and group exhibitions in Japan and has had showings at Saskatoon's University Gallery and Regina's Dunlop Gallery. Hardy was raised in Saskatoon. After completing high school he studied photography for three years. Since then he has painted full time at his studio in Meacham. His paintings have been widely shown in both provincial and national exhibitions, and are in many collections.





Aerial View of Sturdy-Stone Centre



Sturdy-Stone Merchants Association Members

Audrienne's Cruise & Leisure Wear
Boe Navarr Jewellers
Dog 'N' Suds Family Restaurant
Eyewear Gallery
Fancy Vixens Bo-Tek
Flowerland Florist
Holiday Village Travel
It's A Small World
Kiki's Jean Shoppe
Kitchen Things
Nibblers Nook
O Hair Now Unisex Salon
Phase Two Photo
Sadies for Ladies
Saskatoon Colour & Sound
Snack Shack
Sturdy-Stone Stationery 1980
Wells Studio of Design
Women's World

Government of
Saskatchewan



Government Agencies — Commissions Boards and Corporations

Administrator of Estates
Consumer Affairs
Co-operation and Co-operative Development
Crimes Compensation Board
Culture and Youth
Executive Council
Government Services
Health (Regional and Dental)
Highway Traffic Board (Motor Carrier)
Industry and Commerce
Law Reform Commission
Revenue, Supply and Services
Saskatchewan Hearing Aid Plan
Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan
Saskatchewan Mining and Development Corporation
Social Services
Tourism and Renewable Resources
Urban Affairs
Workers' Compensation Board

An attached parkade located on 22nd Street provides convenient parking facilities for patrons of the Sturdy-Stone Centre. A liquor board outlet located within the mall is another service provided to the public.